

# REGISTERED DENTAL ASSISTANT PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

## ADMISSION TO EXAMINATION

Your notice of admission contains the location, date and time of your Practical Exam. **Your assigned exam date and time are final; no changes in scheduling will be made.**

**If you do not show at the designated time, you will not be allowed into another exam date or time, and you will forfeit your examination fees.**

A current, valid photo driver's license or other official government photo identification, such as a passport, must be presented at check-in to be admitted to the exam. (Driver's licenses must have a current extension.)

No notes, books, notebooks, pictures, tape recorders, other written materials, or extra teeth may be brought into the examination area. No persons are allowed into the testing centers except scheduled examinees and test administrators.

**You are NOT allowed to bring beepers or cellular phones into the examination area.**

ALL KITS AND MATERIALS IN THE EXAM ROOM ARE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION AT ANY TIME.

## PROCEDURES TO BE TESTED/GRADING CRITERIA

Two procedures will be tested during the exam. You will be given 1 ½ hours to complete the exam. However, the entire examination process, including registration, grading, and clean-up will take approximately 5 hours.

The general grading criteria used by Examiners to determine each candidate's minimal competence for licensure as an RDA is as follows:

### **1. Fabrication and Placement of a Temporary Crown**

An appropriate temporary crown on tooth #8 has been directly fabricated that recreates proximal contact and proper occlusion, but does not extend beyond the margin of the crown preparation.

Candidates may either bring an impression to the examination, or may take an impression(s) during their test time. No additional time will be given to make the impression during their 1 ½ hour test time and no water will be available in the exam room.

COMDA will provide the prepared tooth at the exam; candidates must present a typodont with a normal typodont tooth #8.

### **2. Placement of a temporary restoration**

Placement of a temporary restoration tooth #19. The appropriate material is smooth, has sealed margins, and recreates the occlusal anatomy and proximal contact

areas of the natural tooth/teeth.

Candidates must present a typodont with a COMDA-approved prepared tooth inserted for tooth #19

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

**Examinees shall wear a uniform or lab coat, and shall bring and use gloves, mask, and safety glasses. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the exam, and therefore failure of the exam.**

Examinees must also provide all necessary armamentarium to perform the procedures to be tested.

**Candidates must bring the following to the exam:**

- 1. Typodont:** Model series as listed below with soft flexible gingivae. All teeth must be present and in a condition that will not interfere with your successfully completing the examination.
  - a. Columbia Dentoform M-PVR660
  - b. Columbia Dentoform M-PVR860
  - c. Kilgore Model D95 DP-200

- 2. Bench Mount** must be appropriate for typodont, with adjustable heavy-duty ball joint in the upright rod, pole can be 4", 6", or 8" in length, and base part clamps to a bench top.

- 3. Prepared Teeth** used in the exam will become the property of the Board. **Typodonts must be presented with an approved prepared tooth for the temporary restoration, and all other original unrestored typodont teeth.** A prepared tooth for the temporary crown procedure will be supplied by COMDA at the exam.

**If a typodont or bench mount is deemed unacceptable by an Examiner at any time, it is the examinee's responsibility to provide an acceptable replacement.**

### **4. Other Materials**

- a. For the temporary crown, only temporary resin acrylic NON-monomer material may be used (i.e., **NO Snap, Trim, Jet or similar products allowed**)

- b. For the temporary restoration, bring whatever materials are necessary to prepare and place a temporary restoration.

- c. Electrical or cordless trimming devices are acceptable. (COMDA is not responsible for malfunction of handpieces and no additional time is given to candidates if there is equipment failure) **The use of emery boards is prohibited.**

- d. **Impression material and trays are optional -** Candidates may either bring an impression for the typodont they will be using, OR take the impression during their test time – but NO water is available in the exam room and no additional time will be given.

## **GENERAL PRACTICAL EXAM PROCEDURES**

At check-in, typodonts must be presented with all original teeth and approved prepared teeth for the procedures to be tested.

Each examinee is solely responsible for assuring that his or her typodont, bench mount, and armamentarium meet the criteria described later under "Required Materials" and that they are in proper working order. Each examinee will be required to set-up his or her own typodont and armamentaria.

If a typodont and/or bench mount is deemed unacceptable by an Examiner at any time, it is the sole responsibility of the examinee to provide an acceptable replacement. Failure to do so will result in failure of the exam.

Instructions about the procedures that must be performed will be provided in the Examination Room.

The following shall be observed by all applicants; failure to do so is cause for dismissal from and failure of the exam:

1. The maxillary and mandibular arches may not be separated from each other.
2. The procedures may not be performed in any other manner than would be performed on a patient. For example, the typodont may not be worked on when it is upside down, opened flat or the jaws separated, or as though working from the throat.
3. Examinees will not be allowed to use the equipment, instruments, or materials belonging to other examinees or the testing facility.
4. Examinees may not talk or in any way help each other.
5. Examinees may not leave their work areas or the exam room without permission, and shall occupy the space assigned to them throughout the exam.

## **GRADING**

After performing the designated procedures, candidates must wait in a designated secured area during grading, then return to the examination room to clean-up and retrieve their kits. Examinees will not be allowed to leave the secure area to make phone calls, obtain snacks, etc.

The approximate time from the beginning of the exam to actual dismissal is 5 hours.

After examinees are escorted from the exam area, two grading Examiners will independently evaluate and score each of the tested procedures without observing or discussing each other's evaluation.

For each procedure, you will be issued one of two grades: either 55% (fail) or 75% (pass). In order to pass, you are required to attain 75% on each of the tested procedures. If

not, you will be required to take the entire exam at a later date.

## **EQUIPMENT RENTAL**

**The Committee on Dental Auxiliaries (COMDA) is not involved with nor derives any benefit from the rental or sale of equipment or materials by schools or private parties. COMDA assumes no responsibility for the availability, condition, or cost of any supplies or equipment provided to applicants for the examination by schools or private parties.**

Applicants are solely responsible for bringing all required equipment and materials to the examination, and for assuring that they are in good working order.

COMDA does not approve or endorse any preparatory classes for the examination.

The following may offer preparation courses and/or have rental kits available for the practical exam:

### **Northern California:**

Dental Education Associates (800) 360-0332  
J. Productions (916) 852-7277  
Sacramento City College (916) 558-2443  
Tooth Fairy Systems (800) 232-3741  
Western Career College (800) 321-2386  
Dental Advantage (866) 347-0707 (Within California)  
(559) 347-0707 (Outside California)

### **Southern California:**

Citrus College (626) 914-8727  
Concord Career Institute (619) 688-0800  
Dental Professionals of Calif. (800) 438-7887  
Dental Advantage (866) 347-0707 (Within California)  
(559) 347-0707 (Outside California)  
J and Z Dental Rentals (949) 422-3311

## **NOTICE OF RESULTS**

Results will be mailed 6 weeks after the LAST day of testing. Candidates may not phone for exam results, as exam results cannot be given out over the phone.

### **IMPORTANT:**

**Effective July 1, 2002, California law requires all examinees who pass the RDA Practical and Written Examinations to provide the original yellow coronal polish card and a copy of the radiation safety certificate to COMDA in order to be issued an RDA license.**

Also, licenses will not automatically be issued once you pass both exams. COMDA must first complete its criminal history investigation of each applicant.